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The New Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal

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IMPORTANT UPDATES:

Road to Sabang construction

The winning contractor for the Sabang road project is requesting to reconsider their proposal for a full road closure during the construction period as this would ensure the durability of the road.

Mayor Rockey Ilagan will be meeting with members of the Municipal Council together with the contractor. A public hearing will be scheduled to get the opinion of the affected barangays and other affected sectors.

Netizens: "Too much rubbish!"

Netizens from Dulangan, Poblacion, Balatero and White Beach had been posting in various Facebook groups about uncollected garbage in their areas which are aggravated by stray animals rummaging thru the piles of trash.

The Office of the Mayor is still waiting for the approval of the Sangguniang Bayan to utilize the new Villaflor dumpsite. The Dulangan dumpsite in Lapantay was closed following a resolution of the Barangay Council of Dulangan.

White Beach water project

Barangay officials of San Isidro said that residents and business owner in White Beach are pleased with the improvement of the water supply following the partial completion of the water project worth more than 4 million pesos.

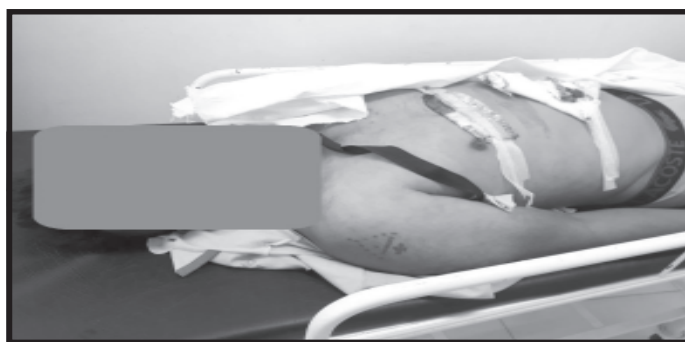
Municipal officials are confident that more barangays will enjoy better water services as the water rehabilitation and improvement project is now underway following the approval of the Sangguniang Bayan.

Trike driver killed in Sitio Sigayan, suspect at large

A tricycle driver was shot dead inside his house last April 6, around 1 pm, by still unidentified gunman in Sitio Sigayan, Barangay Tabinay.

The Chief of the local police force, Inspector Lawrence V. Panganiban, said that the victim Wilson Alfante Laceda, 37 years old, succumbed to death due to 2 gunshot wounds in the chest and abdomen.

The police said that the victim came home from work and was probably followed by the assailant inside his house. The victims children who were then at a neighbor's house heard the gunshots and one of the victim's son, 10-year old Warren Laceda rushed back to their house and allegedly saw "a dark man, about 5'7 in height, wearing a blue shirt, brown maong shorts and a black cap"



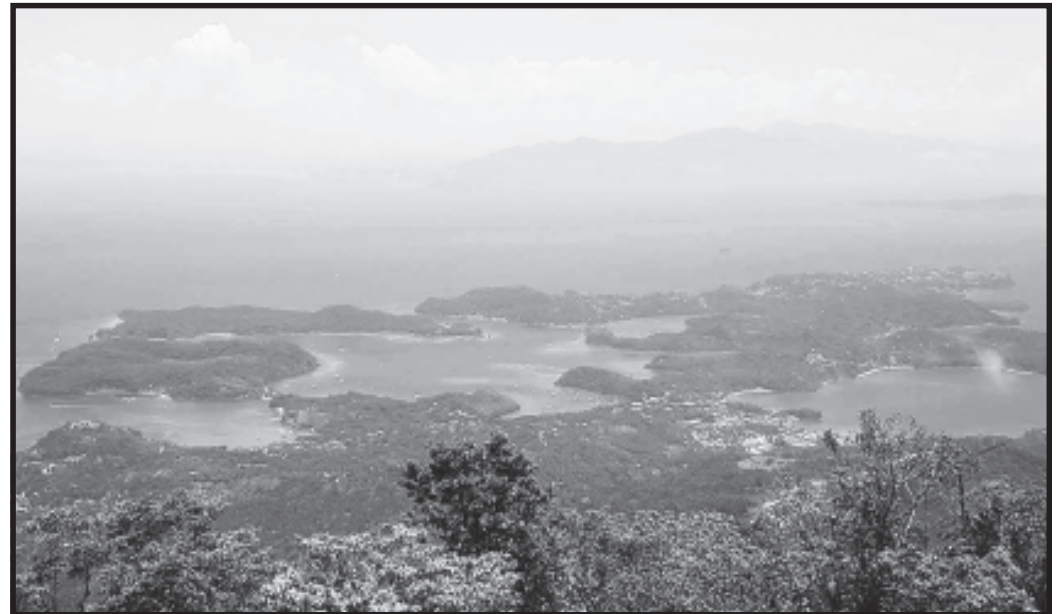
running down the stairs. The suspect saw Warren and pointed the gun at the kid who dashed back at the neighbor's house to ask for help. The suspect fled the scene and currently, is still at large and considered armed and dangerous by the police.

The victim was brought to the Puerto Galera Hospital but was later declared dead on arrival (DOA) by Dr. Katrina Mae Ramos.

Panganiban said that the victim was not involved in drugs or illegal gambling activities and the motive has yet to be established.

The police is requesting witnesses to come forward to aid in the investigation and the capture of the suspect.

If you have any information, please call the local PNP station using this contact number—(0916)4094673. Any information will be highly confidential.



Magnificent view of the world famous Puerto Galera Bay from the PHESI wind farm project

PHESI wind farm expected to greatly boost tourism

One of the benefits of the wind farm project is the expected increase in tourist arrival following the opening of new attractions on the mountains of Puerto Galera.

One needs to see to believe in the incredible tourism potential of the multi-billion wind energy project, its vicinity and existing tourist spots.

Upon reaching the site, one immediately get mesmerized by the breathtaking, panoramic view of the entire island especially near the location of the first windmill which is around 1600 feet above sea level.

Noe Linesses, editor of the new Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal, said: "I thought I have seen everything and will not be surprised but I was surprised. This is truly and undoubtedly the best view of the entire Puerto Galera."

The rolling hills, verdant foliage, lush rainforest plus the cool climate all add to an exceptional upland tour.

Access will be easy as PHESI builds a 10-meter wide road and 7 kilometers long. Around 700 meters will be fully concretized while the rest will be with what engineers call CTB or cement treated base which is a mixture of crushed concrete combined with amounts of cement that harden after compaction to form a durable paved road.

Real estate boom

As the road is nearing completion, the price of land is increasing from a low beginning of 100 pesos per square meters to 250 pesos per square meter and recently 500 pesos per square meter. A real estate appraiser said that the price will double once the road has been completed.

Aside from the expansive road, water is abundant in the area and electricity will be forthcoming 2 factors which will further make people interested in buying land in the area.

Local entrepreneurs are also

envisaged to buy land and put up businesses to cater to the tourists as what had happened in the Pagudpud Wind Farm in the Ilocos region. Viewing decks, souvenir shops and restaurants have sprouted like mushrooms as thousands of Filipino tourists make it a must to see the windmills while visiting the province of Ilocos Norte.

Environmental issues

Many resident and netizens have been criticizing the wind energy project for damaging the environment, causing floods and widespread siltation, the cutting of thousands of trees and even suggesting the possibility of killer landslides.

The debate will always be lively as striking a balance between the environment and development will always be contentious.

PHESI contends that the environment is of utmost importance to them, after all, they are

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Man nabbed for raping 11-year old Mangyan girl in Tabinay

Last April 6, the police successfully arrested a 32-year old man who is a member of the Mangyan tribe after allegedly raping on 3 occasions an 11-year old girl belonging to the same indigenous community.

The suspect was identified as Rodolfo Tarnate Bibo, a farmer, illiterate and residing with a live-in partner at sitio Big Tabinay.

The victim Anita (not her real name) is a Grade IV student and residing in the same village. She recounted to the police that

her ordeal began on December 29, 2016, around 8 pm, when the victim went to a nearby store to buy candy and the suspect Rodolfo approached and covered her mouth with his hand and then dragged her to a dark, grassy area. He then pulled down her shorts and raped her.

On January 26, 2017 at about 9 pm, while the victim was on her way home, the suspect approached her with a knife on his hand. He then covered her mouth and forced the victim to pull down

her shorts and laid on top of her and again raped her.

The third rape incident happened on February 24, 2017 at around 9 pm. The victim did not tell anyone about the rape as the suspect threatened to kill her and her family if she says anything about the incident.

However, she noticed that the suspect was always stalking her. She later told her parents about the incident and the father of the victim immediately filed a complaint at the police station.

PHESI wind farm expected to greatly boost tourism ... from page 1



Melekon official said the road will be paved with CTB (cement treated base) and will be 10 meters wide.



The slope had been laid out with coconut net then hydroseeding and then planting of the anti-soil erosion vetiver grass



Engr. Poquiz point to a cliff/slope with loose earth and rocks where they will put concrete wall and use concrete blasting.

championing green, renewable energy. But to do this, they need to build the roads which entail lots of clearing, bulldozing and earth-moving causing siltation and pollution albeit temporarily.

Netizens, however said, the floods have been getting worse and that the pollution along the coast of Varadero Bay have killed many marine life and coral reefs.

To this, PHESI said, that they have been aggressively addressing all the environmental issues being thrown at them.

To replace the trees that were cut down, PHESI will be planting 100,000 trees in a 7-hectare property approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). PHESI employed Mangyan laborers and established a large nursery for their multi-million reforestation project.

Siltation and flooding

Mr. Jhon Poquiz of Melekon, phase one general contractor of the wind farm, showed the measures being undertaken by PHESI to stop the siltation, soil erosion and solve the flooding problem. Poquiz said: "We are now placing coco nets and will later start the hydroseeding of the slope."

Hydroseeding is a planting process that uses a slurry of seed and mulch. It is often used as an erosion control technique especially when vetiver grass, a widely acknowledged anti-erosion plant, are utilized. The vetiver grass will be planted in more than 20,000 square meters of land along the slopes.

Poquiz added in slopes prone to loose soil and rocks,

stone masonry, concrete wall and concrete blasting will be employed to prevent erosion and landslides.

PHESI is also working on several drainage canals to control the flow of water and prevent flooding in Poblacion and Tabinay. Melekon officials said that they are confident that once all the drainage canals have been built, the flooding problem will be solved.

Tourist spots

Nearby tourist spots and establishments are beneficiaries not only of the wide road access but also from the expected increase in the volume of visitors.

A tour package can be designed so that the tourist will be guided to see the windmill, get awestruck by the natural beauty and amazing view, to later visit the nearby organic farm and then have a picnic at a neighboring resort.

Currently, Da Pirmeda "resort", the nearest tourism establishment to the wind energy project, has been attracting many local and foreign tourists. Da Pirmeda is apparently expanding with new Mangyan huts being built around its main attraction which is the swimming pool with continuous spring water flowing onto it.

Another tour destination is the agricultural farm of Stairway Foundation featuring organic farm products. Stairway has built a farmhouse where their student scholars are taught organic farming in an otherwise unsuitable environment 500 meters above sea level.

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@ the Nursery: 100,000 trees will be planted in a 7-hectare lot approved by the DENR to replace the trees that were cut down.



Safety First signages are all over the construction site. Visitors go through a safety briefing before going up the mountain.



CSR: New community center will be finished this May with a new barangay hall, health clinic and basketball court.



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How did the people of Puerto Galera voted in the 2016 polls?

Name	Villaflo	Dulangan	Tabinay	Poblacion	Baclayan	Sto. Niño	Balatero	San Isidro	Aninuan	Palangan	Sabang	Sinandigan	San Antonio	Total
For Mayor														
Ilagan, Rockey	415	732	655	639	120	450	798	905	388	278	2428	570	104	8482
Dolor, Estrelita	337	774	691	686	214	283	869	696	942	450	534	127	306	6909
Atienza, Aristeo	78	162	240	1010	102	253	403	463	235	57	135	42	20	3200

Name	Villaflo	Dulangan	Tabinay	Poblacion	Baclayan	Sto. Niño	Balatero	San Isidro	Aninuan	Palangan	Sabang	Sinandigan	San Antonio	Total
For Vice Mayor														
Lopez, Marlon	388	745	616	777	199	313	944	884	1042	490	1333	327	352	8410
Materiales, Nestor	324	695	801	537	109	195	439	563	207	158	1494	357	44	5923
Persia, Virleo	61	158	126	873	98	430	581	469	175	102	141	34	23	3271

Rank	For Councilors	Votes
1	Andal, Joseph	7321
2	Arago, Melchor	6683
3	Cataquis, Milo	6479
4	Atienza, Miko	6261
5	Arago, Tony	6051
6	Axalan, Ed	5974
7	Candava, Medel	5882
8	Sandoval, Joemer	5701
9	Ascan, Johnny	5317
10	Armamento, Edith	5284
11	Delmundo, Leny	5004
12	Lopez, Policarpio	4804
13	Babao, Neopito	4685
14	Florida, Teodoro	4186
15	Marquez, Harold	4061
16	Banaag, Marcelino	3983
17	Reyes, Mario	3970
18	Magbuhos, Ronilo	3868
19	Lacdang, Nancy	3192
20	Evangelista, Islaw	3017
21	Gutierrez, Promie	2862
22	Enriquez, Jeneth	2477
23	Axalan, Arlene John	2305
24	Lizardo, Ismael	2164
25	Axalan, Delbert	1981
26	Sinduraan, Noel	1868
27	Cobarrubias, Rafael	1605
28	Atienza, Posiedon	1366
29	Maniebo, Eugenio	1248
30	Atienza, Leandro	965

Ed: The This election result was culled from the GMA News website (www.gmanetwork.com/news/eleksyon2016) which states partial and unofficial results as of 7:45 PM, May 18, 2016 representing 100% of the REGION IV-B, Oriental Mindoro, Puerto Galera Election Returns. (38 of 38 Election Returns) (19,096 of 22,751 Registered Voters). Source: COMELEC-GMA Mirror Server.

The Fortnightly is not guaranteeing the authenticity of this data, official documents are recommended to be requested from the COMELEC. That being said, we will use the data above as reference only regarding the 2016 polls.

Rockey Ilagan scored a big victory to snatch the highest position in Puerto Galera in the 2016 election from the Dolor family by garnering a lead of more than 1,500 votes from his closest rival, Mrs. Lita Dolor, mother of then incumbent Mayor Hubbert Dolor.

In spite winning only 5 barangays, Ilagan had a landslide win in Sabang and Sinandigan with 2,337 lead against Mrs. Dolor, which was enough to overcome the latter's win in 8 barangays. Dolor's biggest lead against Ilagan was in Aninuan where she got a lead of 554 votes. The late ex-Mayor Teo Atienza won in his home barangay Poblacion.

Probably owing to the strong influence of the Catholic Church, the people of Puerto Galera did not vote for Duterte but heeded the call many Catholic bishops to vote for Grace Poe for president and Leni Robredo for Vice President.

Only 1 councilor of Mayor Ilagan won a seat in the Sangguniang Bayan but he landed in the number one spot - Councilor Joseph Lineses Andal.

Six (6) of Dolor's councilors got included in the Magic 8. Team Lunas' got a seat in the Council in the person of Medel Candava who is a successful businessman belonging to 1 of the biggest families in Puerto Galera.

For President	
Poe, Grace	5897
Roxas, Mar	5153
Duterte, Rody	4705
Binay, Jojo	1833
Defensor, Miriam	399

For Vice President	
Robredo, Leni	7728
Escudero, Chiz	3914
Marcos, Bongbong	2556
Cayetano, Alan	1734
Honasan, Gringo	536
Trillanes, Antonio	485

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Are public meetings useful?

A public hearing is defined as a process where interested parties have the opportunity to ask questions and more importantly, to express their opinion for or against a proposed ordinance.

But how can one ask the right questions, or express an intelligent, informed opinion when the subject was given a few minutes before the public hearing. The Council should come up with a solution that will make it possible for the public especially the affected sectors to read the draft days before the public hearing. They can make use of the Internet, print hard copies, distribute them or post them at conspicuous places

To the councilors, a public hearing is an essential element of the law-making process. Without it, an ordinance may be deemed invalid by the courts.

To the public, many tend to question its usefulness. Here, more often than not, public hearings are conducted to satisfy solely the legal requirement in passing an ordinance. Whether an ordinance is rejected in a public hearing is of no consequence.

Soon the matter of the controversial Sabang road project will be the subject of the public hearing. It is an issue that demands the best and the brightest inputs from all the affected sectors. Its implications are far reaching and may dictate the outcome of the next election.

Public hearings are useful when great ideas are heard with caveat that the government officials will know how to sift the grain from the chaff.



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**Sabang Beach, Puerto Galera
PHILIPPINES**

Let us not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs

by Mario Lutz

Sabang Bay is a world-class dive site, with great visibility and masses of underwater life, making it as among the favourite destinations for tourists and diving enthusiasts in the Philippines.

It is important that the municipality must work out plans and programs to protect our marine assets. There is a need to safeguard the marine ecosystem and to put up new regulations as a consequence of the rapid growth of touristic activities in Puerto Galera. However, any new regulation will not be readily accepted especially if the income of a particular sector will be affected. But what must be done, must be done.

As diving tourism and the associated residential and commercial developments exert a considerable pressure on the ecological fabric of our town, there is absolutely a need to ensure that the water qualities in and around Puerto Galera is assured. Furthermore, every member of the local community need to understand the importance of complying with existing rules and regulation in order to protect our coral reefs, if we want to assure that future generations can also benefit from them.

Strong reliance on healthy and attractive coral reefs makes the tourism sector in Puerto Galera particularly vulnerable to the impacts of uncontrolled tourism, out of control activities on the surface or in our water bodies, but also to climate change.

According to the DENR, the designation of Sabang Bay as Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) per DENR Administrative Order 2016-06 last May 2016 will provide the DENR and the local government and other stakeholders the authority to identify the water quality problems, sources of pollution and the possible solutions to the problem.

But of course, Administrative Orders alone, no matter from what government body, will not be effective if we choose to break or bend the rules. Compressor diving, fish feeding, fishing within the marine protected areas, illegal fishing nets, the indiscriminate anchoring and dumping of all kinds of rubbish into the ocean are all contributing to the destruction of our most important source of livelihood. Being a dive operator myself for more than a decade in Puerto Galera, it makes me very sad to see the already deteriorating and very noticeable changes in our coral reefs. It is more than time to strictly protect what we have left. Let us not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs!

There are already enormous pressure on our

marine environment which has yet to be properly addressed by our municipal government.

Simple rules, enforced by the MENRO and the Bantay Dagat (Where are you anyways?) would help to put an end to this destructive practices that seem to happen on a daily basis.

But there is also a lot every single one of us can do to protect our reefs. Coral reefs are among the world's most spectacular ecosystems and snorkelling is an excellent way to explore them. As coral reefs face an increasingly uncertain future, snorkelers and other coral reef visitors can play an important role in helping protect these fragile habitats. Follow these simple guidelines to become a "coral friendly" snorkeler.

BEFORE SETTING OUT TO EXPLORE THE REEFS

For your vacation, choose an environmentally friendly resort or hotel; one that practices energy conservation, recycles, and treats sewage and solid waste in responsible ways.

Get the best possible snorkelling instruction you can.

Practice snorkelling skills away from the reef.

Make sure your equipment fits properly before you snorkel near corals—it can be very difficult to adjust in the water.

If you feel uncertain, or are an inexperienced snorkeler, consider wearing a snorkel vest for added buoyancy.

Learn all you can about coral reefs—they are fascinating and fragile environments.

IN THE WATER

Never touch corals; even slight contact can harm them. Some corals can sting or cut you.

Select points of entry and exit to avoid walking on corals.

Maintain a comfortable distance from the reef, so as to avoid contact.

Know where your fins are at all times and don't kick up sand.

Stay horizontal in the water while you're near or above the reef.

Learn to swim without using your arms.

Take nothing living or dead out of the water except recent garbage which does not have living organisms on it.

Move slowly and deliberately in the water—relax as you swim and take your time.

Don't use gloves in coral environments, that's a big no.

Remember, look but don't touch.

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What's in a name?

By Noe Linesses

"Puerto Galera is not the Port of the Galleon."

The name is essential when studying the history of a place. It provides a clue, an insight of the times gone by in an area.

I have read many literatures about the name Puerto Galera and how it came to be. It's been published in countless brochures, copied in many websites and quoted in newspapers, speeches and even in a recent historical account on the island of Mindoro.

Puerto Galera they say came from the Spanish Puerto de Galeon which in English means Port of the Galleon. However, as much as we want it to be true, it is rendered false by an old Spanish map made in 1871.

Before we re-write history let me first attempt to tell how we got stuck with the concept of the "port of the galleon." Firstly, it is a wonderful catch-phrase, romantically enticing, exuding images of the medieval past, and a convenient commercial tag line for the tourist industry. Secondly, there were indeed galleons that sought refuge inside Puerto Galera Bay. An early account to support this claim was in a letter to Spanish King Felipe III in July 15, 1604 by then Philippine Governor Pedro Acuña who made mention that the Almiranta 2, a galleon, was moored in Puerto Galera. But the galleon was not the first Spanish ship that sailed into Puerto Galera.

On May 12, 1570, Martin de Goite and Juan de Salcedo conquered Puerto Galera onboard the San Miguel, a galera (or in English a galley). A galley is a large, usually single-decked medieval ship of shallow draft, propelled by sails and oars and used as a merchant ship or warship.

A galleon was a big ship and was used when the Spaniards needed to cross oceans. It was a transatlantic carrier, ferrying passengers and cargo across the ocean.

Galleys, on the other hand, were the inter-island vessels of the Spanish Conquistadores. When they needed to conquer and explore nearby islands and rivers they used the galera. It carried 20 to 50 soldiers which also had to man the sweeps (oars); it had multiple sails.

The big Spanish ships at the time of the conquest of Mindoro were moored in Panay Island where the Governor, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, waited for news from Goite and Salcedo who were off to conquer the whole Luzon and Manila using galleys including the indigenous galley-type vessels which were commandeered by the Spaniards. Together with the San Miguel and La Tortuga, a small frigate, the Spaniards brought to



Puerto Galera 15 paraos manned by more than 400 native conscripts. A parao was an outrigger boat with sail and carried 20 to 100 people. The big paraos were called balangay which is the root of the word barangay.

There is an article in Filipiniana.net about an old map entitled in Spanish Plano [inédito] del Puerto de Galera y Enseriada del Varadero en la Isla de Mindoro printed in Madrid, Spain in 1871. Translated into English it means: Map (unpublished) of the Port of the Galley and the cove of the drydock in the Island of Mindoro. This clearly proves that the origin of the name Puerto Galera came from Puerto de Galera and not Puerto de Galeon as is popularly believed.

The etymology of other Spanish words named after places in Puerto Galera reveals a glimpse of history and how the Spaniards of yore saw such places in the context of time.

Boquete means a gap which would best describe "the gap", a small water canal between Boquete Isand and mainland Puerto Galera which existed until the late 70's. The gap is now a sandbar.

Medio Island – medio means half. It is the "other half" of Boquete Island.

Ensenada means cove. This cove was used as a drydocking facility inside Varadero (drydock) Bay. The Spaniards used Varadero Bay because of its nearness to Baco where the cabisera (seat of government) was later situated.

Muelle means wharf. In this wharf was built a warehouse that stored sacks of palay and other foodstuff which were collected by ships departing to Nueva España (Mexico). This warehouse burned to the ground along with the palays which became the "Black Rice of Muelle."

(Source: Relacion de las Yslas Filipinas, H. Riquel, The Phil. Islands, Blair and Robertson)

Let us not kill the goose ...

MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH MARINE LIFE

Never chase, harass or try to ride marine life.
Never touch or handle marine life.

ON BOATS

Choose snorkel operations whose boats make use of available moorings — anchors and chains destroy fragile corals.

Make sure garbage is well stowed, especially light plastic items.

Be sure to take away everything you brought on board, such as packaging, used batteries and bottles.

SHORESIDE

Support coral parks and other conservation projects:

Encourage and support the use of boat moorings, complain to the boat crew if you see them

using anchors.

Participate in local initiatives to monitor the marine environment.

Participate in cleanups.

Make a donation or volunteer your skills to support a coral park. For example, you can participate in a reef survey, conduct outreach, or help educate others about reef conservation.

Donate used equipment such as cameras, dive gear or reef identification books.

Avoid purchasing souvenirs made from coral, turtles or other marine life—this is often illegal, and it's never environmentally wise.

Speak up. Make sure your snorkelling buddies understand these simple but important conservation practices.

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PHESI wind... from page 2



Da Pirmeda resort is expanding with new Mangyan huts and is expected to be a stopover point on the way up to the windmill.

Social Responsibility

As part of their CSR and in compliance with the agreement signed between them and host Mangyan village, PHESI is building a 5-million peso worth community center featuring a new barangay hall, new barangay health clinic and new sports center.

The new facilities are expected to be completed by the first week of May 2017.

Aside from these, PHESI is donating 23 million pesos for the rehabilitation of the Puerto Galera water system. The grant covers the relocation and improvement of the existing pipelines and the establishment of the first ever water filtration system at the water source.

Eric Epa, consultant of the contractor, said that the present setup of the water system, in his opinion is "not safe and maybe dirty".

"After we have installed the filtration system worth more than 6.8 million pesos, your water will be safe, clean and potable", says Eric.

Fortnightly Staff Trip

After several weeks of waiting, the staff of the Puerto Galera Fortnightly were finally allowed by PHESI to visit the site of the wind energy project.

The staff were first made to log-in their record book for visitors and were then huddled into a air-conditioned room where we were given a 10-minute safety briefing by Melekons safety officer Antonio Delacruz.

Safety is of paramount concern to Melekon and this is evident with all the safety signages that the staff saw from end to end on the entire stretch of the road. The road was busy with heavy equipment, bulldozers, backhoes and trucks of all sorts coming up and down the mountain, and in some portion, there are even aides managing the traffic.

The staff ask to see the Mangyan sacred tree which was spared from being cut as requested by the indigenous community although PHESI paid millions of pesos for the clearing and the right of way access.

The tree was right in front of Da Pirmeda resort and stands majestically over the village of Baclayan.

While on the way up to Tower One (first windmill), the staff saw that the mountains were mostly agricultural land with cogon grass, coconut trees and fruit trees, and the remaining virgin forest could only be around 10 percent. There is really a need to rehabilitate and do massive reforestation especially near the watershed area but the staff were told that almost all the lands are privately owned, titled properties.

Small-scale mining

Eric said that they discovered that there might have been small-scale mining activities before in the boondocks of Baclayan and Tabinay. This he said is a problem for the windmill project of PHESI.

Last April 11, they found possibly black breathing pipes used in small-scale mining near the construction site and Eric suspect that there would be small crevices beneath the ground that would seriously pose a threat to the giant structures that they will erecting. He said that the construction of the foundation for the turbine towers had to be put on hold until a seismological screening has been completed. This is necessary in order to find out if there are hidden shafts underneath the construction sites which would be able to destabilize the ground and put the towers in danger.

Recently, Mayor Rockey Ilagan met with small-scale miners in Barangay Dulagan and Tabinay and offered them alternative livelihood opportunities. The former miners were given cash assistance so that they can engage in raising livestock like poultry. Meanwhile, the new police chief, PCI Lawrence V. Panganiban ordered his men to intensify the investigation and operation against illegal exploration and small scale mining within the municipality. (by Mario Lutz, Noe Lineses and Leslie Manalo)

POLICE BLOTTER

The Puerto Galera Municipal Police Station, led by PCINSP Lawrence V. Panganiban reported the following accomplishments for the months of March and April 2017.

March 3, 2017**Accomplishment on illegal Mining/Exploration**

- joint operation between MPS, personnel of the 3rd Platoon, 3MC, RPSB 4B and personnel of Puerto Galera MENRO on March 3th at Sitio Kanluman, Brgy. Tabinay which resulted to the arrest of two (2) suspects; and to the identification of two (2) other suspects.

The operating team went to the said place to conduct verification of reported illegal mining activities. Upon reaching the area, two (2) suspects, identified as Godofredo Espiritu Maranang (At large), 34 years old and Alyas Abloy (At Large), both residents of Brgy. Tabinay, Puerto Galera immediately fled the scene. One of the suspects dropped his black Cordura sling bag, containing one Hi-cap Norico pistol, cal. 45, 12 pcs live ammunition cal. 45 and Godofredo's professional drivers license. Two (2) more suspects, identified as Cornelio Gonio Gaba, 56 years old, resident of Brgy. Simulong, Batangas City and Roger Sotto Sto. Tomas, 47 years old, resident of Brgy. Bugtong, Lipa City, Batangas were arrested at the scene.

March 14, 2017**Accomplishment on crime of Less Serious Physical Injuries**

Gwendolyn Vanzuela Hibbert, a 39 years old, married woman charged with the crime of Less Serious Physical Injuries falls in the hands of the law when she was arrested through an operation conducted by personnel of the PG MPS, during the serving of a Warrant of Arrest at 41 PIO Pedrosa Str., BFRV Resort, Brgy. Talon, Las Pinas City.

Hibbert charged with of Less Serious Physical Injuries under Criminal Case Nr. 4140 was arrested by virtue

of warrant of arrest issued by the Honorable Judge Edgardo M. Padilla, dated February 10, 2017 for the crime of Less Serious Physical Injuries, with a fixed bail amounting to 2.000 pesos.

Gwendolyn Vanzuela Hibbert was committed to the Provincial Jail Center, Camilmil, Calapan City.

March 21, 2017**Accomplishment on Anti Illegal Drug Operation**

A part of the intensified campaign against illegal drugs, personnel of the Puerto Galera Municipal Police Station in coordination with Tourist Police Unit, RPSB 4B, PEDEA 4B SET BRAVO and a PEDEA K9 Unit conducted a joint anti-illegal drug operation on March 10, 2017 at the venue of the Malasimbo Festival in Baatero, leading to the arrest of Remar Sales Nievea I, 28 years old, resident of West Washington Drive, Legaspi City, Albay. The suspect tried to enter the Festival Ground carrying illegal drugs.

The suspect was brought to the Puerto Galera Hospital for medical examination and later transferred to the MPS for proper disposition.

March 22, 2017**Accomplishment on Anti Illegal Drug Operation**

As part of the continuous intensified campaign against illegal drugs, personnel of the Puerto Galera Municipal Police Station, in coordination with the 3rd Platoon, 3MC, RPSB 4B PEDEA MIMAROPA conducted a joint anti-illegal drug operation on March 22, 2017 in Big LaLaguna, Brgy. Sabang, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro that resulted in the apprehension of Vilina Riboroso Lapasanda @ Vilama, 46 years old, and Jolly Peruero Francisco, 37 years old, both residents of km23, West Kabulusan 2, Brgy. Cupang, Alabang.

According to the confiden-

tial informant, a certain Vilama and cohorts where selling suspected illegal drugs (Shabu). On the operation conducted by the operating team, the poseur/buyer where able to buy a sachet, containing a crystalline substance, suspected shabu from the suspects leading to a lawful arrest of both suspects.

The inventory and markings of pieces of evidence recovered/seized were witnessed by Barangay Councilors of Brgy. Sabang, this municipality. The arrested suspects were brought to the Puerto Galera Hospital for medical examination and were later traferred to the Puerto Galera Municipal Police Station for proper disposition.

March 29, 2017**Suspect on Mauling incident busted!**

A victim of mauling without substantial reason was given justice with the immediate response and pursuit operation, conducted by personnel of the MPS which resulted to the apprehension of the suspect.

The victim was identified as Rex Camba Barcelona, 23 years old, resident of Brgy. Small Tabinay. The suspects were identified as Jimson Dela Cruz Perez, 21 years old, Martin Santos Legazpi, 16 years old, Agilo Vepinosa, 17 years old, all residents of So. Calumpang, Brgy. Sinandigan, Puerto Galera; and Kennedy Acost Lingon, 15 years old, resident of So. Balaytigue, Brgy. Sabang.

The suspects mauled the victim after their drinking session at Rudolf's Bar and Whats Up bar. The victim sustained multiple physical injuries such as: lacerated wound 1-2 cm, and contusion hematoma on his right frontal area. Victim was rushed to the PG Hospital for medical examination and first aid. A pursuit operation was conducted by

personnel of the MPS which resulted in the lawful arrest of the suspects.

April 6, 2017**Rape Suspect goes to Jail**

A 32 year old man has been charged with rape and was arrested by authorities after the 11 year old victim informed her parents about the incidents. The suspect was identified as Rodolfo Tarnate Bibo, 32 years old, member of the Mangyan Tribe and resident of Brgy. Tabinay, Puerto Galera. The victim, her name was withheld to protect the child, reported that Bibo raped her 3 times, after the last incident she noticed that Bibo was stalking her and reported everything to her parents. Personnel of the Puerto Galera Municipal Police Station conducted a operation against the suspect which resulted to the arrest of the suspect.

April 11, 2017**Puerto Galera Police Officers arrest Playa Blanca Resort Robbery Suspect**

A reported robbery incident at Playa Blanca Beach Resort, White Beach, was immediately responded by personnel of the MPS in direct supervision of PCINSP Lawrence V. Panaganiban. The said conducted pursuit operation resulted to the arrest of the suspect, identified as Joel Aclan Orbeta, 29 years old, a resident of Brgy. Pachosa, Calapan City. He was brought into custody of the Municipal Police Station while all the necessary documents are being prepared for filling of appropriate charges against the suspect.

April 12, 2017**Accomplishment on Anti-Illegal Drug Operation**

Puerto Galera Police Officers arrested two personalities including a minor in an anti-illegal drug operation by the MPS.

The suspects were identified as Eddie Doria Mang, 51 years old, resident of Brgy. Bagong Silang, Caloocan City and Kayla Baral Roa, 17 years old (minor), resident of Brgy. Poblacion, Puerto Galera.

After the operation conducted by personnel of the local MPS, in cooperation with the PEDEA-4B, the suspects where arrested after they sold suspected illegal drugs (Shabu).

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police Station	- 043-2873043	Waterworks Hotline	- 0915-3796217
Mayor's Office	- 043-2873045	TV NET (Cable TV)	- 043-2873178
Fire Station/Rescue	- 0915-9001179	Tourism Office Head	- 0927-4392001
PG Hospital	- 0917-3023312	MDRRMC Head	- 0917-5620092
Rural Health Unit	- 0917-6230758	PG Fortnightly	- 0917-8181418
ORMECO	- 0917-8940169	Printing Press Office	- 0917-7771418

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2nd Dulangan music fest set this May

by Lizlee Manalo

The Dulang Foundation and Nabgun Production (John Nelson Nabayra) Keansburg Marketing Corporation Asia Brewery will be hosting the second Dulangan Music Festival, in Puerto Galera on May 24, 2017.

The event will start as early as 5 pm and will feature performances from the best local

bands, namely, Chianti Khalua Marmo, Island Experience, Mellow Submarine, Late Session II, Green Leafy, AB Positive, Class S and Pablo.

Last year March 24, 2016, the same event was successful held with over 100 hundred guests in attendance. This year' event is planned to be way more exciting as additional bands from

Manila are playing like Spicy Spouse, Don Lang, Red Mean Stop, Elat Pepington and Ever Clappton.

The proceeds of the festival will be donated to reconstruct the Sitio Silangan Chapel, which was severely damaged by typhoon Nina in 2016.

The event aims to promote local Galeran talents and to inspire more young people to engage in productive musical activities.

Ticket prices are 100 pesos with 1 Beer and 1000 pesos VIP with a table for 6 persons, 12 beers and free pulutan. To buy the ticket, please contact Toots at Toots Bar in Dulangan or get in touch with Paul Lopez.

A "mysterious" death in Barangay Sabang?

by Mario Lutz

The death of a 29 year young woman in Sabang, last Monday, April 17 created a lot of confusion and fear. Evelyn Bautista Secosana, born 1988 passed away after what concerned citizens thought was caused by a dog-bite with rabies. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. Early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days at the onset of these symptoms.

Understandably, a highly contagious infection like rabies causes a lot of fear within any community, thus, the Fortnightly started to investigate the case immediately. After gathering more information, the case became even more confusing. All kinds of irregularities in the early report and statements of the death of Eva came to light. Initial reports reveal that the victim got bitten by a dog in their neighborhood on April 13 and

that the victim was brought to the Puerto Galera Hospital to get an anti-rabies vaccine. She was dead days later on April 17, 2017 around 5 in the morning.

But, I could not believe that Eva was given an anti-rabies injection at the Municipal Hospital, as I knew for a fact, that no anti-rabies vaccine are on stock there. I went to Dr. Oca Evangelista's trauma center in town to check the records, knowing that they have the vaccine stored. However, no record of Eva could be found at the clinic. Curiously, no official complaint was filed, neither at the Barangay nor at the Municipal Police Station regarding a dog bite incident.

Background check revealed that Eva worked in a local girlie bar in Sabang. Rumors came up that she was into drugs and alcohol as well. Looking at her own Facebook page showed that the victim suspected, even before the incident with the dog occurred, that she might have a urinary tract infection (UTI), and that she felt unsafe and sometimes scared in her own house.

In order to find the true cause of her death, an autopsy would need to be performed. But who would pay for it? Her family is from Mindanao, and here, no one would have that kind of money, and in most cases, that would be the end of an investi-

gation. But not this time, not in this case.

I called Mayor Rockey D. Ilagan and spoke to him about the seriousness of a possible rabies infection and the public health risks if that would turn out to be true. Also, I raised my concerns about a possible foul play. The Mayor immediately called the Municipal Health Officer and the Chief of the Police and ordered them to conduct a serious investigation. Help from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was sought to get the necessary autopsy done which was conducted last Friday, April 21 in the early morning.

The result reveal that the death of Eva was caused by Tetanus, and Tetanus is caused by an infection with the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*, which is commonly found in soil, saliva, dust, and manure. The bacteria generally enter through a break in the skin such as a cut or puncture wound by a contaminated object. They produce toxins that interfere with muscle contractions, resulting in the typical symptoms. Diagnosis is based on the presenting signs and symptoms. The disease does not spread between people.

So, Eva's death was not so mysterious as one thought it was, at least, no foul-play, no rabies infection.

Father n' Son Shipping Lines

SCHEDULE OF TRIPS

Muelle to Batangas		Bats. to Muelle/WB	
1st Trip	7:30 am	1st Trip	7:30 am
2nd Trip	9:00 am	2nd Trip	9:30 am
3rd Trip	10:45 am	3rd Trip	11:15 am
4th Trip	12:45 pm	4th Trip	1:30 pm
5th Trip	2:35 pm	Last Trip	4:15 pm
Last Trip	4:15 pm (usually weekends)		

Sabang to Bats.		Bats. to Sabang	
1st Trip	8:15 am	1st Trip	7:30 am
2nd Trip	9:15 am	2nd Trip	11:30 am
3rd Trip	11:30 am	Last Trip	2:45 pm
Last Trip	1:00 pm		

WB to Batangas

1st Trip	6:30 am
2nd Trip	8:00 am
3rd Trip	10:15 am
4th Trip	12:00 n
5th Trip	2:00 pm
Last Trip	3:30 pm (usually weekends)

FOR BOOKING AND RESERVATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Reggie Visaya - 0927-3099601 or 0933-3154204
 Aireen (Batangas) - 0923-6990806

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The New Puerto Galera Fortnightly Journal

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Paalam Daddy Teo Atienza

Isinulat ng kanyang anak, Dra. Cristine Margaret Atienza

MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT PO sa libo libong taong dumating at nakiramay simula nang lumisan ang aking amang si ARISTEO VILLAMOREVANGELISTAATIENZA - isang patunay na napakarami nyang nakasalamuha, natulungan, napaglingkuran, at minahal na mga tao.

65 years lamang ang itinigil nya kasama nating lahat ngunit ito ay punong puno ng pagmamahal sa Diyos, sa pamilya, sa mga kamag anak, kaibigan, kumpare, kumare, inaanak, sa mga kapos-palad, kaserbisyo, sa mga katutubo, at sa buong Bayan ng Puerto Galera na kaniyang buong pusong pinaglingkuran.

"Natulungan ako ng iyong Ama" - iyan ang daang beses kong narinig habang binabantayan ko sa burol ang aking Ama. Hindi ko po maisip kung paano nya nagawa lahat ng iyon ... pero nagawa po nya ang mga ito nang walang pag-iimbot at hinihintay na kapalit.

Mahirap pantayan ang napakarami nyang nagawa para sa kapwa at sa bayang ito. Ito ang isa sa napakarami nyang legacy - ANG PAGTULONG. At ito rin ang legacy na itutuloy namin para sa Iyo, mahal kong Ama.

Mercy, love, and compassion - this was the message of his life. Awa, pagmamahal at malasakit - ito ang mensahe ng buhay ng Daddy ko.

Ang buong pagkatao nya ay punong puno ng awa, pagmamahal, at malasakit sa kapwa. Ito ang dumaloy sa kanyang mga dugo hanggang sa huling sandali ng kanyang buhay. Sigurado ako na ang sambayanang ito ng Puerto Galera at maging karapit lugar ay nakaranas ng awa, pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit ng aking Ama... sa iba't ibang pamamaraan. Awa, pagmamahal at malasakit, ito rin ang naging buhay ni Kristo kaya sya ay nagpakasakit sa Krus para sa ating lahat. Ang buhay ni Kristo ang yapak na sinundan ng aking Ama - He lived a life of mercy, love, and compassion. Dahil dito, sigurado ako na ngayon ay nararanasan na rin nya ng mas malapit ang awa, pagmamahal, at pagmamalasakit ng Diyos Ama. Napagtagumpayan ng Daddy ang buhay dito sa lupa.

"Napakabuting tao ni Teo" - mga katagang paulit ulit ring binabanggit nitong mga nagdaang araw... patunay ng maraming nagpapatotoo na napakabuti nyang tao!

Iba't ibang katungkulan ang

ginampanan ng aking Ama dito sa bayang ito - bilang Municipal Mayor, Vice- Mayor, Punong Barangay... at higit sa lahat bilang Ama ng Puerto Galera. Lubos niyang minahal at pinaglingkuran ng buong puso at katapatan ang lahat ng tao sa bayang ito, anumang antas ng buhay nila... Tunay na siya ang AMA NG BAYAN NG PUERTO GALERA! Maraming parangal rin ang naganap nitong mga nagdaang araw at kami ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa mga ito. Gayunpaman, hindi sapat ang mga salita. Words are not enough. Napakarami nyang accomplishments, napakaraming nagawa. He lived as a GREAT MAN! He lived a great life! Isa syang tunay na BAYANI ng pagmamahal, paglilingkod, at pagmamalasakit. DIGNITY and HONOR - ito ang pinanindigan nya sa buong buhay nya.

Sa kabila ng mga challenges na hinarap nya, iginugol nya ang kanyang buong panahon at lakas sa walang tigil na pagsisilbi sa kapwa. For all of us, he was a GIFT OF GOD ... isa syang regalo mula sa Poong Maykapal. Napakaiksi ng 65 taon pero ang nagawa nya ay sobra sobra... at nagawa nya iyong lahat sa napakaiksing panahon... kahanga hanga, kapuri-puri!

Panginoon, salamat sa napaka-espesyal na regalo mo sa aming lahat - ang aking Ama na si Aristeo Villamor Evangelista Atienza.

Daddy, salamat sa regalo ng buhay mo sa aming lahat. At ngayon, Panginoon, ibinabalik na namin sa inyo ang regalang ito, napakasakit man sa aming kalooban.

Buong buhay ng aking Ama ay isang pagtupad sa utos ni Kristo na mahalin ang kapwa. Ginawa nya po ito ng buong puso at buong lakas.

Ngayon po, Panginoon, tanggapin nyo po sya sa iyong kaharian kung saan sya ay magiging masaya hanggang sa wakas ng panahon. He spent his whole life serving You and others — Please grant peace to his soul.

At muli, sa ngalan ng aming pamilya at ng pamilya ng buong bayan ng Puerto Galera, DADDY, WE LOVE YOU VERY, VERY, VERY MUCH! And, we will miss you so much. Thank you so much for the Gift of you! MARAMING MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA LAHAT, DADDY!!! (Message delivered by Dr. Cristine Margaret Atienza at the funeral mass last April 12, 2017)

Mga bagong regulasyon itinakda sa White Beach, Brgy San Isidro



Mga tourist police habang nagpa-patrolya sa White Beach (Photo Credit: Facebook ID Topcop Ormin).

Nagtakda ang punong-bayan ng Puerto Galera ng mga bagong regulasyon para sa White Beach ng barangay San Isidro simula ika-21 ng Marso.

Ayon kay Mayor Rockey Ilagan ang Kautusan ng Punong Bayan bilang 7 ay upang mawili at maging kasiya-siya ang pagtigil sa nasabing lugar. Ito rin, aniya, ay "para sa higit na kaayusan at proteksyon sa kahabaan ng White Beach at sa mga taong nasa paligid nito."

Napaloob sa Kautusan ang mga sumusunod na bagong alituntunin:

1. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pag-inom ng anumang alak na nakalalasing sa baybayin hanggang sa tabing-dagat, maliban sa mga lugar na itinakda ng barangay at lokal na pamahalaan, kung saan ang may-ari ng estbalisyemento na katapat ay pinahihintulutang maglagay ng mesa sa baybayin.

2. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagdadala ng pagkain at kumain sa alinmang bahagi ng baybay-dagat ng White Beach.

3. Upang mapangalagaan ang

kalusugan ng mga tao, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang paninigarilyo sa alinmang pampublikong lugar o sa alinmang mataong lugar maliban lamang sa itinakdang lugar ng pamunuan ng establisyemento.

4. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagkakalat ng anumang uri ng basura sa paligid, gayundin ang pagtatakda ng maayos na pagtatapon ng basura at pagsunod sa pamantayan ng tamang paghihiwalay ng mga basura.

Sinabi ni Mayor Ilagan na ang sinumang lalabag sa Kautusan ay paparusan ng paglilinis sa baybay-dagat sa loob ng kalahating araw.

Samantala, halo-halo ang naging reaksyon ng mga netizens sa Kautusan ni Mayor.

Marami ang "full support" kay Mayor sa kanyang nilagdaang Kautusan. Anila, ito ang magpapanatili ng kagandahan at kalinisan sa White Beach, na siyang pangunahing lugar na dinarayo ng mga turista.

Umalma naman ang ilan sa pagbabawal ng pagkain sa beach. Anila, kawawa ang mahihirap na gustong mag-picnic sa beach at hindi

kayang magbayad ng pagkain at inumin sa mga bars at restaurant.

Sa comment ni Carina Caringal-de Smul, sinabi niya: "Bakit po sa White Beach lang may mga ganyang bagong regulasyon? Paano nman po yong may mga gustong magpicnic? Kawawa nman po yong mga tao na cannot afford ang mga price ng food and drinks sa bar and restaurant."

Itinanong din ng isang netizen kung paano ang "awareness" o kung paano daw ito malalaman ng daan-daang dumarayong turista. Habang ang isa ay nag-comment na duda na ito ay maipatutupad sa dahilan na napakaraming turista na galing sa Mindoro ang nag-picnic sa White Beach na hindi alam ang nasabing Kautusan at maaaring mahirapan na parusahan ang mga ito.

Sinabi naman ng isang taga-White Beach na marami sa mga nag-picnic ang basta umaalis na lamang at nag-iwan ng mga basura sa dalampisagan. Ito raw ang rason kung bakit tuwing may "beach clean-up" ay napakaraming plastik, bote at iba pang basura ang napupulot sa White Beach.

Halina sa Merkado sa Kapitolyo ng Probinsya

ni Lizlee Manalo

Magtatalaga ang Tourism Office ng Oriental Mindoro ng isang producer's market na bukas para sa lahat na gustong makilahok na mayroong sariling gawang produkto mula sa iba't ibang klase ng prutas, gulay, inumin, karne at iba pa. Layunin nito na maipakita at mas makilala ang bawat produktong lokal hindi lamang sa ating probinsya kundi sa iba pang mamimili mula sa iba't ibang parte ng bansa. Ito ay gaganapin sa Provincial Capitol grounds sa ika-28 ng Abril 2017, 6 pm at tuwing Byernes 4 pm hanggang 12 ng hatinggabi at tuwing Sabado sa 7 am hanggang 2 pm. Magsisimula ang pagbubukas sa ganap na 4 pm ng Byernes at magtatapos ng 2 pm tuwing Sabado.

Hindi lamang ito isang pagkakataon kundi gaganapin ito

linggo-linggo hanggang matapos ang buong taon ng 2017. Magbibigay sila ng mga libreng booth, stand, lamesa, tents, parking area at mga silya sa mga lalahok. Kasama na din dito ang libreng kuryente sa nasabing araw ng event.

Layunin din nito na maitaas pa ang ating turismo sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakilala sa gawang sariling atin at maingat pa ang ating likas yaman hindi lamang sa lokal kundi sa pambansang pamilihan.

Maraming benepisyo ang mapupunta sa mga lalahok dito. Mas maingat ng mga kalahok ang kani-kanilang negosyo, magkakaroon sila ng dagdag kita, mas makikilala ang kanilang produkto at maaaring madiskubre ng ibang mamimili at gawing franchise ang kanilang mga produkto.

Maghahatid naman ito sa bawat mamamayan ng sigla sa komunidad, dagdag na kaalaman sa agrikultura at ating kultura. Magkaroon ng pagkakataon ang bawat negosyo na magkaisa sa pagpapakilala ng iba't ibang farm products at iba pang mga kalakal at serbisyo upang mapalawak na rin ang tatak ng produktong nagmumula sa Oriental Mindoro.

Sa mga gustong makilahok at para sa iba pang impormasyon, pwede kayong makipag-ugnayan kay Rick Cortez sa numerong 09189091648.

Kung meron kang
gustong ibentang lupa,
please call/text:
0939-9387818